

554, 118

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
4 November 2004 (04.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/095877 A2**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04R**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/012341

(22) International Filing Date: 21 April 2004 (21.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
10/420,954 22 April 2003 (22.04.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ACEN-TECH, INC. [US/US]; 33 Moulton Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HORRALL**, Thomas, R.; 26 Bowers Road, Harvard, MA 01451 (US). **HEINE**, John, C.; 40 Cherry Brook Road, Weston, MA 02493 (US).

(74) Agents: **HEINE**, Holliday, C. et al.; Weingarten, Schur-  
gin, Gagnebin & Lebovici LLP, Ten Post Office Square,  
Boston, MA 02109 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), Euro-  
pean (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,

GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,  
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,  
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted  
a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE,  
AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ,  
CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,  
EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS,  
JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA,  
MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM,  
PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ,  
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD,  
SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY,  
KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG,  
CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT,  
LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF,  
BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN,  
TD, TG)

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the  
earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following desig-  
nations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW,  
BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ,  
EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID,  
IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU,  
LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ,  
OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY,  
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,  
ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ,  
SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ,  
BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE,  
BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE,  
IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent  
(BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE,  
SN, TD, TG)

**Published:**

— without international search report and to be republished  
upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **SOUND MASKING SYSTEM**

(57) **Abstract:** A sound masking system according to the invention is disclosed in which one or more sound masking loudspeaker assemblies are coupled to one or more electronic sound masking signal generators. The loudspeaker assemblies in the system of the invention have a low directivity index and preferably emit an acoustic sound masking signal that has a sound masking spectrum specifically designed to provide superior sound masking in an open plan office. Each of the plurality of loudspeaker assemblies is oriented to provide the acoustic sound masking signal in a direct path into the predetermined area in which masking sound is needed. In addition, a loudspeaker assembly is configured as a bolt and slip-nut threading system for ease of installation. The exterior surface of the loud speaker "bolt" and the interior surface of the locking nut contain axially oriented, reciprocal regions with and without threads. In operation, the regions of the nut without threads are oriented to correspond to the regions of the bolt with threads. The nut is then slid along the bolt until the desired placement position is reached and locked in place with a half turn of the nut or less. An interference pin may also be used to provide positive locking of the nut at any position.

WO 2004/095877 A2